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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1944 No. 39

# NOTABLE SUCCESSES

"WILL you please convey to General Alexander and to all under his Command my heartfelt congratulations on the notable successes that they are achieving in what we all know to be an exceptionally difficult and hard fought action. I pray that those successes may continue until the forces of the enemy in Italy are finally overwhelmed"

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, in his message to General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson Allied Commander of the Mediterranean Theatre, on Saturday

CONTENTS


| | PAGE |
|---|---|
| EDITORIAL— | |
| The Quebec Plan and Burma Strategy .. .. .. | 3 |
| RUNNING COMMENTARY— | |
| Yugoslavia: King Peter's Unpopularity and its causes: Youth Congress in Yugoslav Mountains plans country's liberation, etc. | 4–5 |
| Settlement of Demobilised Soldiers. By Sir Hugh Hood, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Adviser to H.E. the Governor. | 6–7 |
| Madrassis Second to None .. .. .. .. | 7 |
| *Seshiah, the Curious Villager.* (By R.G.) .. .. | 9 |
| The New Outlook in Britain. By H. S. Town .. | 10–11 |
| The Menace of Japan .. .. .. .. .. | 12 |
| Education and culture in Soviet Russia:— | |
| High Education; Public Education; Soviet Literature; Pushkin; Maxim Gorky; Mayakovsky; The Soviet Theatre; Music of the Soviet Peoples; Historical and cultural Monuments .. .. .. .. .. | 13–18 |
| War Diary .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 19–20 |


[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

# OPTIMISTIC HOPES FULFILLED

"Now we have secured bases of departure for advance to vital areas of the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. For strategic purposes this marks the end of the New Guinea campaign.

"The results of the offensive launched in the Pacific theatre, eleven months ago, have more than fulfilled my most optimistic hopes and expectations. Operations have appreciably advanced us on our way. I am especially thankful for our light losses. Nothing could more clearly have indicated the mercy of guiding Providence."

GENERAL MACARTHUR, *Commander-in-Chief, South-West Pacific, said on Sunday.*

❖

# ON THE THRESHOLD OF ROME

"We stand now on the threshold of Rome. Before many days have passed, we shall have freed this first European capital from Nazi tyranny. Our Fifth Army has been the pioneer for other Allied victories to come. Ours has been truly an Allied army. Men who have cherished liberty and freedom as life itself, have come from many parts of the world to form this fighting team in Italy."

GENERAL MARK CLARK, *Commander of the Fifth Army, in his address at Nettuno, on Tuesday.*

❖

# INDIA HAS MET JAPAN'S CHALLENGE

"We were left in no doubt that when India attains her desires and realizes her full Independence she will still continue to be most welcome in the highest councils of the British Commonwealth and will have much to gain by remaining within that powerful and free association. An exchange of views took place on general questions of policy affecting no one country of the Commonwealth in particular, but all. My co-representative at the War Cabinet, Sir Firoz Khan Noon and myself, were invited to attend the meetings when subjects of interest to India were under discussion. We did so. We made our contribution and learned much. We felt ourselves to be not on the edge, but a part of the conference.

"To indicate the subjects in which India was sufficiently interested to justify her representation at the conference is almost to go through the agenda. We, Indian representatives, were naturally particularly interested in the war against Japan and plans for the future part to be played by Australia, New Zealand and India among others. I have heard much sincere appreciation of how India has met the challenge of Japan both on the battlefield and as an arsenal and supply base. Above all was the fact itself that India had joined in the Empire family party."

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR, *giving his impressions on Empire Premiers' Conference, in London, on Wednesday.*

# MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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# THE QUEBEC PLAN AND BURMA STRATEGY

THE monsoon has begun in Burma. There has been continuous heavy rain in the Manipur hills. A storm is raging in the battle-ring round the Imphal plain. In the Mogaung valley, it is reported that for days the rains have been coming down unceasingly. But, in the opinion of some experts, it seems the monsoon has not yet started! Whatever it is, the fact remains that rainy weather is bringing about a lull in the operations. For instance, in Myitkyina heavy rains and deep mud have slowed down fighting. Several villages outside the town have already been captured by Chinese and American forces and this has blocked the Japanese retreat lines to the north-west. General Stilwell's forces have also fought their way into the southern end of Myitkyina and blocked the Japanese escape way to the south of the city. They now hold more than one-third of the town which is the biggest in North Burma and have been frustrating enemy attempts to bring relief to the Japanese garrison in Myitkyina.

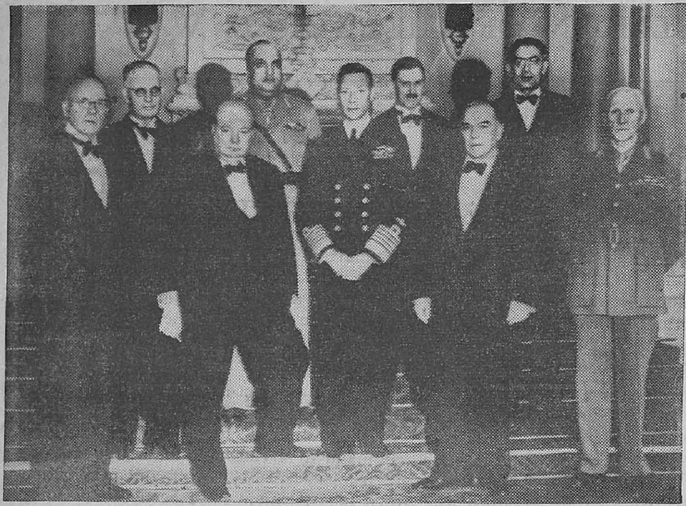
ALLIED superiority in the air and on the ground on all sectors has placed the Japanese forces in Burma in an increasingly grave position, according to an official spokesman at Admiral Mountbatten's Headquarters. He points out that "on the eve of the monsoon, after gambling for high stakes in 1943–44 campaign and misjudging their opponent's strength, the Japanese are unable to effect a swift retreat anywhere." The fierce fighting in the Manipur zone has resulted in heavy losses to the Japanese. They made desperate attempts to break into the Imphal plain, but, in spite of the use of fresh Japanese units, they have failed. The Allies have made considerable progress in the Kohima area in getting astride Japanese communication lines and tightening their grip on the Tidim Road zone. They have also beaten the enemy attacks on the Palel area.

THIS is the broad position before the advent of the monsoon. From this it will be seen that the Japanese have failed to exert concentrated pressure on even one of the points and achieve any tangible results. This is no doubt due to the constant pressure maintained by Allied forces in the fighting zones in the Far East. General MacArthur has given no respite to the enemy in the Pacific either on land or in the air and Admiral Nimitz's fleet and submarines have been causing anxiety and uneasiness to them on the sea. In the Indian Ocean Admiral Somerville's Fleet Air Arm, which carried out a successful attack on Sabang in Sumatra, has repeated its success on Sourabaya which is in Java. All these successes, seen in proper perspective, appear to be not only parts of a single strategic plan, but also inter-dependent for their respective successes upon operations in the other areas.

THE defeat of the Japanese in the battle for the control of the vital base of Kohima, the successful offensive of the Chinese forces under General Stilwell's command in Western Yunnan, the capture of the southern airfield of Myitkyina and penetration into the town itself, which have been achieved by General Merrill's forces—all these have been planned out long ago. It is now revealed that the Chinese offensive in Yunnan, planned at the Quebec Conference, was timed to take place at a suitable opportunity. The opportunity visualised came on account of three factors. They were: the success of our troops in getting a firm hold in the Arakan, the failure of the Japanese "token invasion" of India, and the continued pressure maintained by General Stilwell's forces in North Burma.

VIEWING the situation as a whole, it becomes clear that the object of this seemingly unrelated, but really co-ordinated, strategy is not so much to capture places as to leave the enemy the least freedom of choice in the concentration of his effort. The Japanese were faced with four problems at the same time. The first was that of retaining the posts captured by them in Assam. Secondly, they had to resist the Chinese troops threatening Myitkyina and Mogaung. The Chinese advance in Yunnan was their third problem. Lastly, there was the threat to the rear caused by General Lentaigne's air-borne troops. The Japanese attempt to tackle all these problems simultaneously and their failure to achieve success in any show that their position is not so strong and that they were not able to concentrate their attention on one problem for fear that they might have to do this at the expense of all the others. This weakness is no doubt due to the deep commitments and heavy losses of the Japanese in the South-West Pacific.

THOUGH the situation in the Burma front as a whole is favourable to us and justifies the confidence of military leaders in the ultimate outcome, the task of defeating the Japanese who are determined fighters, is not smooth and easy. They have been out-manœuvred and out-generalled, but they still have the strength to make it hard going for us in Burma.



*H.M. THE KING ENTERTAINS DOMINION PREMIERS TO DINNER AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.*—Photo shows: Left to right—*The Rt. Hon. Peter Fraser, The Rt. Hon. J. Curtin, The Rt. Hon. W. S. Churchill, H.E. the Maharaja of Kashmir, His Majesty the King, Sir Godfrey Huggins, The Rt. Hon. MacKenzie King, Sir Firoz Khan Noon and Field Marshal The Rt. Hon. J. C. Smuts.*

# RUNNING COMMENTARY

**Yugoslavia: King Peter's Unpopularity and its Causes**

The impressions of the political situation in Yugoslavia given by Reuter's Special Correspondent in a despatch, published here on Monday, give a clear picture of the extent of the influence of Marshal TITO, as compared with that of King PETER. He says that unless some unforeseen development occurs before the end of the war, the chances of the Yugoslavian King returning to his country are rather remote, because his name was closely associated, during the last three years, with that of the Yugoslavian traitor, General MIHALOVITCH, who is collaborating with the Germans. A second cause which has contributed to the unpopularity of the King is that his Governments were composed, for the most part, of reactionary Serbs who were against a free and federated Yugoslavia, for which Marshal TITO's Partisans are fighting. The recent declaration of the King on the future of Yugoslavia came too late to have any effect in changing the outlook of freedom-loving people in Yugoslavia towards the Royal House, which is still associated in men's minds with the extremely repressive dictatorship of the King's father, ALEXANDER. There is also the psychological aversion to Serbian domination. The most important thing is the freedom of Yugoslavia, and the people believe that the one leader who can rid their country of the Nazi oppressors is Marshal TITO.

* * *

**Youth Congress in Yugoslav Mountains Plans Country's Liberation**

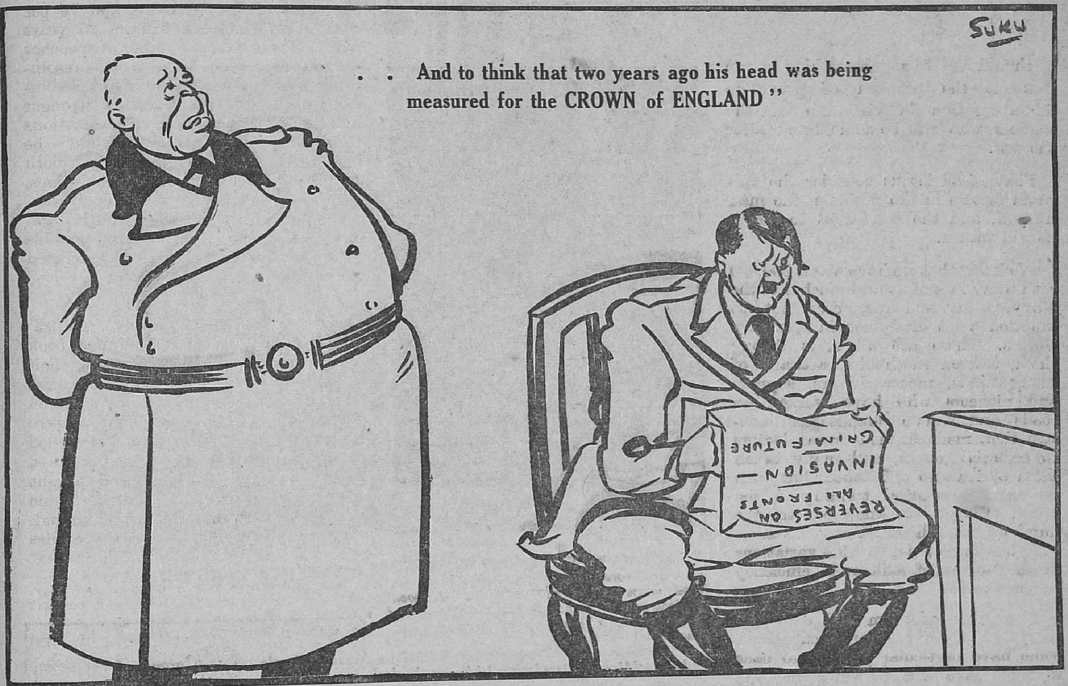
Some idea of the spirit, enthusiasm, loyalty and allegiance of the Partisans to Marshal TITO and his Movement is given by one of the correspondents representing the combined British and American Press, who attended the Youth Congress at Marshal TITO's Headquarters in the Yugoslav mountains. The correspondent refers to the spirit animating the Partisan movement and says, "There were more than 800 delegates representing youth organizations of over 50,000 registered members. Almost half of them were young men and women in the fighting forces. This is the spine of TITO's Army, and 75 per cent of which are not more 25 years old." There were a number of speeches at the conference and many resolutions were passed. The main resolution was to the effect that a stronger link between youth organizations throughout Yugoslavia should be forged, so that the war effort, both at the front and behind the lines, could be intensified. Another resolution was to the effect that youth organizations should do everything possible to assist in organizing a federated Yugoslavia on democratic lines.

The leaders of the youth organizations present at the conference took an oath to Marshal TITO pledging their lives in the struggle for the liberation of Yugoslavia. "Many of the delegates," says the correspondent, "were veteran fighters. Many had travelled for weeks on foot to attend the Congress. Some have forded rivers and fought their way through enemy lines. Some have left their comrades dead, behind. They stood and applauded the names of CHURCHILL, ROOSEVELT and STALIN.

*A LUCKY ESCAPE—When one of H.M.I. ships was operating off the Burma coast recently she was attacked by Japanese aircraft. A small bomb struck the armour plate on the starboard side of the bridge and was deflected through the upper deck, via the engine room and through the hull, to burst harmlessly in the sea. No one was hurt.*

*The Captain (Lieut. H. G. R. Percival, R.I.N.V.R.) shows where the bomb struck the armour plate that saved the ship.*

# UNEASY LIES THE UNCROWNED HEAD!




—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

They shouted against traitors without mentioning any names. They cried out that there should be no return to the old state of things."

The Nazis are trying their best to sow seeds of disunity between different elements of the Yugoslavian population. They want to exploit the differences between the Serbian Chetniks and the Croat Ustachis and make them both fight against the Partisans, but the spirit of fighting democracy shown by the Yugoslav Youth Congress representing all the racial elements of the country is a sure indication that the enemy's attempt will not succeed.

* * *

**The fighting in Yugoslavia —Allied help by air— Partisan Guerilla Tactics**

As regards the fighting in Yugoslavia itself the Nazis are making every effort to crush the Partisans. Fierce fighting is going on in Bosnia. The Germans want to safeguard the railway linking Austria, through Zagreb and Belgrade, with Bulgaria and Rumania. They are also extremely anxious to protect the Dalmatian Coast from possible Allied invasion. The chances of the Germans in regard to attaining these aims do not seem to be very bright, for they are faced by an army of Partisans under Marshal TITO comprising about 300,000 men and women, who have all been highly trained in the technique of war. This number is steadily increasing. The Partisan forces are receiving supplies from the Allies by air. This is intensifying their aggressiveness and increasing their fighting power. An idea of the extent of their success may be gathered from the fact that they now control more than half of the whole of Yugoslavia.

The German campaign during the last six months had as its aim the crushing of the Partisans as a military factor to be reckoned with in the Balkan Peninsula. A series of offensive operations launched for this specific purpose led to no decisive result. It is all like a ding-dong fight. The Germans would advance in a particular area and capture a number of towns. The Partisans would withdraw to the mountains. Later they would re-emerge and close in on the Germans from behind and annihilate small German garrisons, thus leaving the larger ones in unhappy isolation. By perfecting this method of guerilla fighting, the Partisans were able to inflict heavy casualties on the Second Panzer Army to such an extent that all that the German General RENDULIC can now claim is that he has managed to keep the coast open from Fiume down to Albania and see a few heavily-escorted trains running between Trieste and Belgrade.

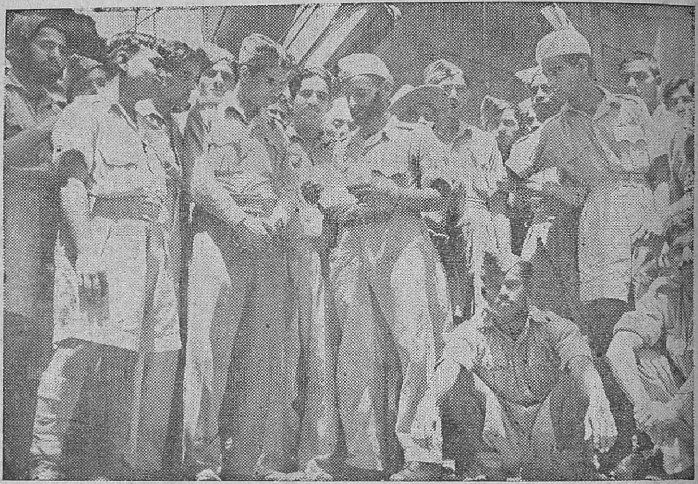
* * *

**Balkans and the Reich— Cutting Supply Lines**

The situation as it stands to-day is something like this: The Germans are deadly in earnest in their new offensive against the Partisans. If Marshal TITO is able to neutralise this offensive, as he successfully did the previous ones, he may be able to open a corridor

(*Continued on page* 8.)

# SETTLEMENT OF



*FORMER INDIAN P.O.Ws. RETURN.—The Governor of Bombay, Sir John Colville, welcomed more than 300 Indian soldiers who had been prisoners of war in German and Italian hands when they returned to India. He went aboard their ship at Bombay, reviewed a parade on the deck and shook hands with the officers and V.C.Os. Each man was given a copy, in his own language, of a message of greeting from the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.*

*A soldier reads the Commander-in-Chief's message of welcome to a group of home-coming Indian soldiers clustered round him on the deck.*

*By* SIR HUGH HOOD, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., *Adviser to H.E. the Governor*

I should like to say something to you about the problem of providing for absorption in civil life of the soldiers who will be demobilised after the war.

First of all let us consider the two main factors in the problem, the man himself, and the conditions to which he will return.

We know that we have about 300,000 men away in almost all branches of the Navy, Army and Air Force, not to mention a lot of women in Auxiliary Forces. There are all sorts among them, trained mechanics, artisans of many kinds, motor drivers, sappers and pioneers who have worked on roads and simple engineering construction, medical men from doctors to orderlies, cooks, and many taken from agriculture and labour but with no special technical training in the army. We do not know exactly the number that will fall in any one category but there must be wide variations in the degree of skill and efficiency in their trades.

A number of them will doubtless return to their pre-war occupations, some have particular jobs to go back to, some have lands to which they will return, but many will not be content to return to rather poor conditions, particularly in the villages.

## APPROACHING THE END

One cannot say that this war will end on a given date. We know we are approaching the end, but neither an armistice putting an end to actual fighting, nor the later definite conclusion of peace is likely to bring about the immediate demobilisation of the bulk of the army. So far as we can judge an armistice will release a trickle of returning men and later it will increase to a stream of some size, that will continue for a long time.

We have then to provide for the return, over a considerable period, of a large number of men of all kinds who have been fighting our battles for us.

Let us now turn to the other side. What are they coming back to?

Plans are being laid for post-war development. A great deal of constructive work has had to be put off to a time somewhat vaguely described as after the war. We have got to catch up on that work. The improvement of roads and the building of hospitals are only two of many items in which we are behindhand. But post-war work as we now regard it is not confined to catching up. A demand is being freely made by prominent people and by non-official bodies for great developments and improvements and I can assure you that no one is more keen than the Government of Madras on furthering all possible plans to develop the resources of the country, to raise the standard of living and to improve the conditions in which the people of this country exist. The trend of modern thought is towards Governments taking a more active part in the development of trade and industries. A policy of s-lf-sufficiency in production and manufacture does not go hand in hand with greater foreign trade but we have scope for much greater industrial development without needing to worry about foreign trade.

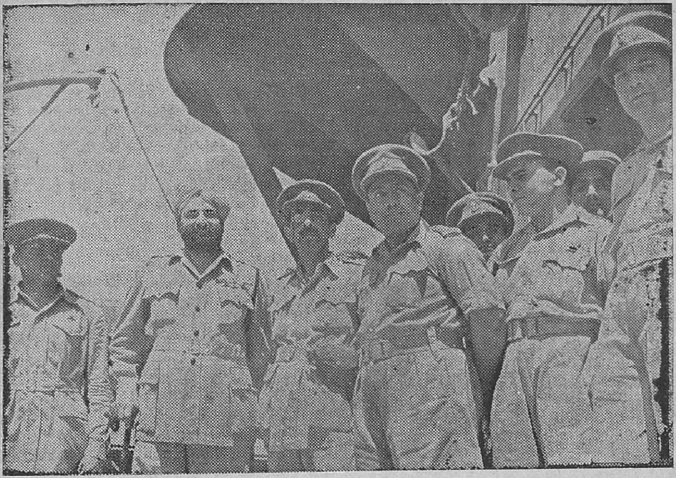
These appear to be the conditions to which the men will return. Many war time activities will close down but others will take their place, to use a metaphor, factories will be busy beating swords into plough-shares. On the whole we look forward to a period of great activity in almost all spheres of human endeavour.

## GREAT EXPENDITURE

All of this implies great expenditure and Government have put aside a fair sum in this year's budget. It will probably be very much bigger by the end of next year, and we hope that this will help quite a lot in embarking on a period of great activity "after the war."

The problem, or rather one part of it, is to fit the demobilised soldier into this state of affairs and we have made it the responsibility of a Member of the Board of Revenue to see that this is done in the fullest measure. It is a complex problem in which there are at present many unknown factors, but as plans become more precise it will become clearer in what way and to what degree the returning soldier can be provided with a reasonable livelihood.

# DEMOBILISED SOLDIERS



*A group of officers in charge of the home coming Indian soldiers.*

So far as industries are started or run by private enterprise we cannot of course compel the employment of demobilised men, but Government have no doubt that many employers will co-operate and a provision to that effect might conceivably be a condition of Government help. In regard to Government undertakings of all kinds it is the duty of the Board of Revenue to look to it that posts are kept for such of our men in the forces as are qualified to do that work.

**WAGES**

The question of wages is another side of the problem. Many who have seen more of the world, who have been well fed and cared for in the army, will not willingly go back to conditions which have ceased to be palatable nor agree to a rate of pay which compels the return to a lower standard of living. Yet wages in an industry must depend on what that industry can afford to pay to put goods on to a competitive market and it is hardly practicable to have two rates of pay, one for those who have been to war and a lower one for those who have not. Wages at present however are comparatively high and it seems unlikely that they will revert to the pre-war level.

So far as rural conditions are concerned, there is need for much improvement. It has a bearing on the problems as very many of the men have been recruited from the villages. A new approach is being made by providing instructional courses for village headmen to help them to realise what improvements can be made, so that they, as leaders of public opinion, may bring about some urge for improvements from the villages themselves. Hitherto that urge has come only from outside, from officials and others with a wider knowledge and experience who have striven to improve village standards. Soldiers will go back to their villages more happily if the roads and water-supply and sanitation are improved.

The Army is itself contributing to the resettlement by lectures and instructions to the men in the forces to qualify them better to fit in and find employment in a post-war India.

**SCHEMES**

Some of the Government schemes on which it is intended to employ a number of ex-soldiers are the Muchkand Hydro-Electric Scheme, the Tungabhadra Irrigation Project, the Pykara West Coast Extension, a number of municipal water and drainage schemes, considerable road works, three large hospitals and many smaller works. These will provide a quantity and variety of jobs in all parts of the Presidency.

Now it is all very well to talk about fitting the returning men into conditions as they are or will be. It is important but it does not fill the bill. More direct action is needed to provide for at least some of them.

The Government of India are building up a fund to be used on schemes solely for the benefit of ex-soldiers. Madras will get its due share and it is intended to draw on this fund to help with the schemes to which I shall presently refer. But I may say at once that these have not yet been worked out in full detail and a number of other suggestions have been made and are being examined.

It is proposed to start equipped workshops to be run by demobilised technicians on a co-operative basis with a management partly elected and partly nominated. So far there are 11 on the list but proposals from some districts have not yet come in. For agricultural classes we have proposals to start eight agricultural colonies, to be run also on a co-operative basis; the land will be held by the society and let to the members and it will not be alienable outside the society; the possibilities of irrigation are being looked into and plans are being made for village sites, electric supply, wells, roads, and so on. They vary in size from 3,400 to 4,000 acres and we expect to find land for more colonies in other districts. It is not to be understood that land for ex-soldiers is to be confined to these schemes; they do not preclude that possibility of other grants but it must be realized that the amount of good land available altogether is not great. Many plots of land have, however, been newly brought under cultivation under the Grow More Food Campaign; these have been given only for short terms and at least some of them will be available for permanent assignment at the end of the present tenures. We hope to avoid what happened after the last war when lands were granted to ex-soldiers who promptly sold them. Such grants were not of lasting benefit and we do not contemplate giving land unless there is some assurance that the man will settle down and cultivate it.

Other schemes that are under examination are the formation of transport units with workshops at certain district headquarters. Another for the organization of co-operative labour units both technical and non-technical to undertake works on contract. Another is to form silk-rearing colonies

*(Continued on page 9)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

through to the coast which will enable him to receive Allied supplies in bulk by sea. Then there is the further prospect of his cutting vital lines of communication between the Balkans and the Reich. Perhaps the most important development which both sides are expecting—one with hope and the other with fear—is the possibility of Allied invasion forces landing in Yugoslavia. That event, whenever it comes, is bound to substantially help Marshal TITO in his great and grand struggle against overwhelming odds, for the liberation of his country from the Nazi yoke.

## VICEROY'S WAR FUND EXCEEDS TEN CRORES

Contributions of Rs. 28,00,473 during April 1944, have brought the total of His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 10,23,37,531 while the payments in the same month amounting to Rs. 6,24,956 raised the total of payments to Rs. 8,61,33,536 leaving a balance in hand on April 30, 1944, of Rs. 1,62,03,995 of which about Rs. 1¼ crores represented unearmarked money.

Notable donations during the month were Rs. 10,00,000 from the United Provinces, Rs. 3,00,000 from the Bombay Provincial Joint War Committee, and Rs. 1,00,000 from the Rewa State, for the Central Joint Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association War Organization; Rs. 5,00,000 from the Junagadh State, Rs. 2,00,000 from the Jaipur State, Rs. 1,50,000 (the usual monthly donation) from the Hyderabad State and Rs. 1,00,000 from Mayurbhanj State, all for general purposes.

Of the payments in India, Rs. 1,00,000 went to the Young Women Christian Association, Lucknow, for the welfare of service women in India, Rs. 1,00,000 to the Welfare Officer, Royal Indian Navy, New Delhi, for the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association, Rs. 1,75,200 for welfare projects for the benefit of Royal Indian Navy, Rs. 50,000 to Director-General, Welfare and Amenities, Simla, for Viceroy's Amenities Fund for officers, Rs. 25,000 to H.E. the Viceroy's Distress Relief Fund, New Delhi, and Rs. 20,608 to the Polish Children's Fund. Payments overseas include Rs. 70,000 to the Royal Air Force and Rs. 13,333 for Mrs. Churchill's Fund for Aid to Russia.

The St. Dunstan's Section of the Fund increased to Rs. 13,44,230 plus £263, the whole of which sum, apart from Rs. 1,00,094 (the balance in hand) has been disbursed to the Committees formed for relieving the war blinded in India and the United Kingdom.

# MADRASSIS SECOND TO NONE

SINCE the outbreak of war, no less than 322,479 men of the "non-technical" class have joined the armed forces from Madras Presidency and the Indian States of Travancore, Cochin, Pudukottah and Banganapalle.

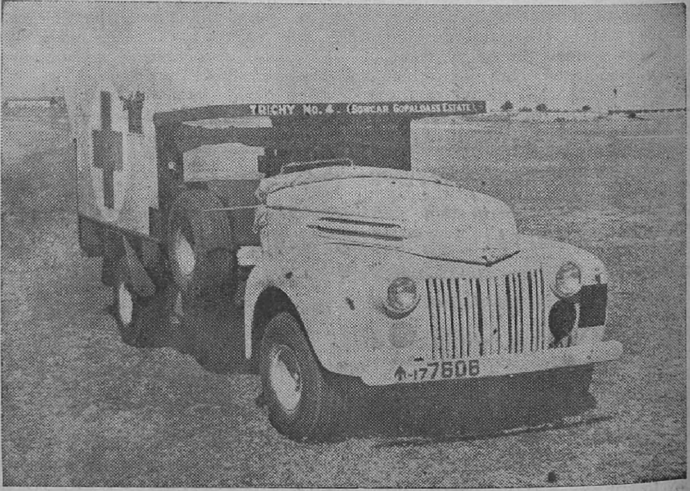
The district with the highest record of volunteers is North Arcot which has produced 11 per cent of the number. Second comes Malabar district, followed closely by Tinnevelly district and the States of Travancore and Cochin.

Most of the men are now trained personnel in Madras Infantry, Engineer or Artillery units or have joined the Indian Signal Corps, I.A.M.C. or R.IA..S.C. of the total, approximately 10 per cent have been recruited for the Pioneer Corps, while regiments such as the Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners and the Third Madras Regiment attract large numbers of men.

These men are learning useful trades of various kinds which will fit them for useful post-war careers. This will mean that post-war Madras will have great number of fully trained personnel to play their part in post-war construction projects.

Even to-day the great influx of men into the army is having its effect in the village and towns. For example, in Chandole village, Bapatla taluk, Guntur, from where about 425 men have joined up, their families receive about Rs. 3,293 per month transmitted through the medium of the blue money order and an additional Rs. 2,026 per month by remittances. This sum of money coming in regularly is tending to raise standards in this village and many other villages in the south.

Reports received during recent weeks from the Assam and Burma fronts prove that the Madrassi is second to none as a soldier and that the fine traditions of the old Madras army, reborn in such exploits as those of the Madras Artillery at the Battle of Bir Hachiem are being maintained against the enemy on all fronts.




**THE above is a reproduction of a photograph 8″ × 5¼″. Similar photographs are given by the Madras Ambulance Fund to every donor of a complete unit presented through the Madras Governor's War Fund. The donor's name, whether district or individual, is clearly painted on the front of the Ambulance so that wounded soldiers may know to whose generosity their speedy conveyance to hospital is due. The cost of one fully-equipped Ambulance is *Rs. 3,275 only*; why not have a PERMANENT DOUBLE RECORD of your generosity ? Simply pay Rs. 3,275 to your District Collector or Tahsildar for transfer to the Madras Governor's War Fund EARMARKED FOR AMBULANCE and within a short time a fully equipped Ambulance like the above will be handed over to the military authorities bearing any name you select, and a photograph of the Ambulance 8″ × 5¼″ will be sent to you FREE OF CHARGE. (Extra copies can be supplied at Rs. 2 each.)**

# SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

(*By* R.G.)

CANTO I.

*Second Instalment.*

Now in a village by the sea
There lived a ryot peaceably
And on a trifling bit of land
Just slightly larger than his hand
Grew paddy, vegetables and so on
Sufficient for his brats to grow on.
He had not been to school at all
But picked up news as chickens dhall,
Thrusting a firm and eager nose
Right into everybody's woes
Or joyful tidings, and thereby
Making himself alert and spry
And ready in his conversation
Beyond the normal of his station.
He could at need chop logic with
The orator of froth and pith
And answer sermons hot and fervent
With proverb's wit or nod observant.
He spent the day and half the night
In lounging talk, and with delight
Would hear or speak an argument,
Nor think a week of it ill spent.

Seshiah (which is what they named him
Commonly, though some defamed him,
Speaking of the 'Long-eared Ass'
Or 'Nosey' or—but let it pass:
Great men have many enemies,
As cows are often teased by flies).
Seshiah, I was going to say,
Was pleased enough in his own way
When war broke out; for news would be
Of riper brisker quality
And rumours might be fit to hear
When magnified by doubt and fear,
And give the active intellect
A proper pastime to dissect
The many strands in search of what
Might be the truth, and what might not.

And first there came a handsome story
Of Ministers in search of glory.
"They say" (so said Seshiah's informant)
"A military passion dormant
Has led them to proclaim the nation's
Great need for martial preparations.
Though formerly it was their creed
Non-violence met every need,
They now want men and money for
The conduct of a righteous war.
And I for one must say they feel
A very proper kind of zeal."

(*Continued from page* 7)

but it is probable that this must be subsidiary to a land of colonisation scheme as are those for poultry-farming, bee-keeping and stockrearing.

The Government have before them three large land development schemes. One is going ahead, the other two which are in malaria tracts are under investigation. The malaria, we are assured, can be overcome and they are very promising schemes. They are not devised for ex-soldiers but it is intended that ex-soldiers will have a part in them.

Finally there is the absorption of men into the regular public services. The Government undertook that the posts in all departments which fell permanently vacant should be filled only by acting incumbents until the end of the war and that the permanent vacancies should be available for qualified men returning from the forces. It may be necessary to amend this by keeping posts vacant only for two years and continuing the scheme after the war until the full equivalent number of posts has been made available. Not only does this avoid some hardship to existing staff and administrative difficulty caused by having posts vacant for a long period to be filled at last with retrospective effect but it will ensure posts being available for such men as return, a considerable time after the war. I should repeat, however, that if there is any modification it will definitely not be to the detriment of our undertaking to the forces.

These then in outline are the plans of the Government for providing for men returning from the war. They are at present immature and further proposals are coming in from various authorities, but I have said enough to show that the whole problem is being seriously tackled, and that before long we shall have a series of complete plans ready to put into operation. We trust that the returning warrior will find that in his absence his interests have not been neglected.

—*A talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras, on 29th May 1944.*

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The sergeant-major had just been giving a particularly gory lesson on the use of the bayonet. The practice sack had been slashed and re-slashed, and by the close of the lesson was hanging in suggestive strips. Then the voice of the instructor barked out:—

"Any here wish to ask any questions?"

"Yes, sir!" a tremulous voice quavered. "How do you transfer to the R.A.M.C.?"

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An R.A.F. man tells me—how truthfully I don't know—that when the Royal Air Force was formed the Stationery Office was told to prepare a special edition of King's Regulations by altering the word "soldier" to "airman" wherever "soldier" occurred in the book that was the basis of Army discipline.

This was done—and even now, my informant asserts, the paragraph of the R.A.F. version reads: "No airman may sleep more than 100 yards away from his horse."

# THE NEW OUTLOOK IN BRITAIN

*By* H. S. TOWN

ONE of my most cherished possessions is a small, but not very valuable etching. It shows a narrow passage with high buildings on either side, and at the end can be seen the steps leading to the great door of the North Transept of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Above the door is the tall North window and higher still is the huge dome surmounted by the Golden ball and cross.

It is a picture of a scene I knew for more than 40 years but never shall I see it again, for Paternoster Row is no more.

As a Londoner I feel a little sad at the thought that most of the busy warehouses, shops and offices which crowded round the Cathedral are gone. To me it is strange to think of St. Paul's standing apart from the city buildings; but there is a new outlook abroad and many who have seen the Cathedral freed from the cluster of ugly Victorian buildings have changed their opinions and wish it to stand apart. No longer will St. Paul's look down on a mass of roofs, chimney stacks and narrow streets; it is to have a new outlook with an open space around its walls.

## CHANGE IN EVERY ASPECT

This changed outlook for St. Paul's is symbolic of the change in the outlook which has grown up in Britain.

Changes in outlook have taken place in every aspect of life. Foreign policy for the future will be something very different from that of the past. Domestic policies, are changing. The State will, in future, take a much more important part in the day-by-day life of the people. Employer and employee will get closer together. Extreme wealth and extreme poverty will both disappear. The reasons for the errors of the past are more fully understood now and on all questions affecting the day-by-day life of the people a new outlook is forming and taking definite shape.

I am tempted to make my starting point in the early nineteenth century and trace the course of British foreign policy to show how the outlook continually changed.

In domestic matters I could perhaps trace the changing outlook concerning education, sanitation, factory legislation and the franchise, but if I go too far back I shall have so long a journey that you, and I, will be wearied long before the end; so let me go back to somewhere about the end of the last great war.

## FROM ONE CRISIS TO ANOTHER

The period between 1918 and 1939 saw Britain pass from one crisis to another. Unemployment in one trade after another caused serious social unrest. Britain's standing abroad was the lowest it had been for many generations and other countries began to think that ere long Britain would be a second-rate nation. Britain was weak, and other nations knew it and so all she fought for, and gained, in the last war slipped out of her grasp, or perhaps it would be more correct to say it was brazenly taken from her by the very people she had defeated.

Our leaders, upholding the ideals of the League of Nations allowed Britain to become militarily so weak, that those nations who were establishing new and strong forms of Government were able to build up a position which eventually allowed them to dictate on international questions. Looking back on that period, I am sure it will go down in history as an important period in man's evolution. Not only Britain, but other nations were trying to cure their ills with useless medicines, and each, and every one, seemed to fail to grasp the simple fact that the cure lay in international goodwill, and not in national sufficiency. We had to have the illness in order to find the cure, and that is why I suggest that the period with all its troubles will eventually be looked upon as an important one.

## JUST BEFORE WAR

But I tend to wander away from my subject and I must get back to its narrow confines. Just prior to the war I feel it is safe to say that in Britain there stalked abroad a feeling of helplessness, hopelessness, and, in some quarters, despair. A feeling that some great international calamity would soon engulf the world and there was no one who could stop it. Hurried journeys were made by British Statesmen to the various capitals of Europe to try and stave off this, as yet dimly discerned, calamity. We know they failed. Why? Perhaps the answer is given in some words written by an experienced student of current world affairs in December 1938 when he wrote:

> "It is necessary to face the facts; one of the most disquieting features of the present situation is that far too many people insist on their own theories and refuse to accept facts if they are unpleasing or conflict with some cherished desire, belief or doctrine."

The facts that many people refused to face then were being stated by a few people, but Britain, and in this she was not alone, Britain hoped to cure her external ills by building up a balance of power against those who had differing international views to her own and to cure her internal ills by exporting her unemployment problem in the form of sending goods to countries who could not afford to buy them. Both these policies not only failed to effect a cure, but the patient became weaker still.

## FOREIGN COMMITMENTS

There is no doubt that Britain entered into foreign commitments without making any serious attempt to measure them in terms of the military resources required to carry them out.

You will remember that Britain and France undertook to go to the assistance of Poland if she were attacked. Other countries, knowing our military weakness did not take this pledge very seriously, but events have shown that we were serious. Our obligation was undertaken with the knowledge and approval of the Dominions and the seriousness of it will be recognized when it is remembered that we are pledging ourselves to help a country into whose territory we could not get without much fighting.

I venture to suggest that the pledge was given because Britain then had an outlook, which we know to-day, was in need of re-alignment. The strength of the Imperial Commonwealth was immense, its resources and potential fighting strength were so great that Britain believed it invincible, and that no possible combination of powers could possibly defeat it.

This then, was the British outlook at the beginning of this war, but events have shown that even the great British

Commonwealth cannot stand in isolation any more than any country can now do, if faced with the combined military and enonomic strength of the major powers of the world.

**SIMPLE FACT**

One really simple fact seems now to have been grasped throughout the world and in Britain in particular, namely, that every country is dependent on all other countries and that none can stand alone. It is further becoming fully realized that even groups of countries cannot stand alone and that the whole world has to be brought into one camp.

Hundreds of pamphlets, books and articles have been written telling how the future of the world should be ordered. Many of them contain hopeless suggestions, some, written in the early days of the war, must be giving their authors severe headaches to-day for they were written on impulses caused through Axis victories; to-day things look different and some articles, which looked so good, are now revealed to be the outcome of shallow thinking.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable pamphlets produced during this war is one produced by a group of British industrial and commercial men. It points out that a lot of the world's troubles arise through international trade tending to enrich some nations and impoverish others. The impoverished nations become still less able to purchase the manufactures of the more highly industrialized nations which in turn are faced with unemployment and a lowering of their standards of living.

After exhaustive arguments this document goes on to say that "international trade must now be raised to its true function which is nothing more nor less than an exchange of goods and services of a mutually advantageous character."

This is a very great change in the outlook of commercial men and is worthy of close study. It is now realized that in international trade there must be a wholehearted endeavour to promote the greatest interchange of goods between the various communities of the world and the aim must be the betterment of standards of living in every country without which world prosperity is a dream which might well be a nightmare.

**BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING**

The betterment of standards of living is a world question and those countries which are not willing to tackle it within their own borders can do nothing towards its solution abroad. This is now well understood in Britain and this is why so much attention is now being directed in that country to questions of social security.

**BEVERIDGE REPORT**

The Beveridge Report received fairly general approval; true there were some reservations but the approval was fairly general because the new outlook in Britain demands that squalor and want shall be abolished, that access to higher education be improved, that better homes, improved medical treatment and security for the future be assured.

I trust you will excuse me if I close by boldly taking the closing words of the editorial in "Britain to-day" for February this year, as they clearly summarize the new outlook in Britain.

"We are looking more and more to world organizations which will substitute co-operation for aggressive nationalism, political or economic, but no country can make the full contribution to international progress unless it has taken steps to eliminate the social sores in its own system. There cannot be a successful world policy for improving the nutrition of the undernourished unless each country is bent on the proper nutrition of its own citizens. There cannot be a successful world policy for increasing international trade unless each country studies its own problems of employment. Hence the necessity of preparing now, before the war is over, for reconstruction both in the domestic and in the international sphere; and there should be no surprise, still less regret that the people of Britain are urging their sorely strained Government to even more strenuous endeavour in the sphere of domestic reform."

*— A talk recently broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.*

*COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF VISITS JHANSI.—Pursuing his policy of getting to know his men and keeping a personal eye on their training, the Commander-in-Chief, General Auchinleck, recently visited military units at Jhansi.*

*The Commander-in-Chief asks searching questions in the Information Room of the Central Command School. With him are Brig. C. C. Crick, Area Commander, Major D. Burnett, Commandant, Central Command School and Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson, Chief Umpire.*

**ACK-ACK GUNNERS' PARADE**

We published some photographs of Ack-Ack Gunners' Parade with captions as received by us, in our issue of May 12, 1944. We have now received the following corrections to some of the captions from the source which supplied us the photographs:—

"It is regretted that certain inaccuracies appeared in the report of His Excellency's visit to a British Heavy Ack-Ack Gunners in South India.

"Would you be so kind as to make the following corrections:—

"1. The regiment was raised in Cornwall and was earmarked for the defence of Plymouth and Portland. (Page 9, paragraph 4.)"

"2. Under the top left hand picture on page 11, the names Capt. Keely and Capt. Blakeman should read 'Cfmn. (Craftsman)' and not Capt."

# THE MENACE OF JAPAN

THE alliance between Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan is not merely an alliance of convenience—fundamentally they are both agreed on certain broad principles: in their general outlook on life and in most of their theories and practices, they show the greatest resemblance. Nowhere is this resemblance more clear than in their attitude towards those whom they consider "inferior races". Now, "racialism", as generally understood by power-mad politicians, is essentially different from the scientific meaning of the word. Politicians generally use the word to cloak their greed to exploit the defenceless, or as an excuse to annex territory: scientists use the word to mean "the possession of certain attributes, physical and otherwise, inherited from a long chain of *a single common ancestry*" (*Julian Huxley*). Now, man is temperamentally mobile, has a restless urge to migrate and, unlike other animals, shows a readiness to mate with individuals or groups of quite different ancestry and appearance. Consequently, in the centuries that have passed, man has become so thoroughly mixed up that pure ethnic groups have almost entirely disappeared, specially from countries that are called civilized: and in modern times to speak of a pure Nordic or a pure Nipponese 'race' is a fallacy.

**RACE SUPREMACY**

Yet, purity of race makes a good slogan, since every man likes to think of himself as one of God's own people, definitely superior to all the rest, with a racial ancestry pure and undefiled, running back to the 'first-created'. There is nothing by itself objectionable in such an attitude: one can imagine himself descended from the nebular hypothesis, for aught the world cares: but when such an attitude makes a man a bad citizen, makes him look down upon all the rest as unfit to live, makes him steal, plunder and murder on the plea that none but he has the right to whatever he might take a fancy to, then obviously the rest have the right to knock the stuffing, and bad stuffing at that, out of him. The Germans and the Japanese have been taught by their rulers to believe that none but they should inherit the Earth; and between themselves they propose to divide the globe. The rest of humankind—white, yellow, brown or black—are just animals, to be used or exterminated as may be thought necessary.

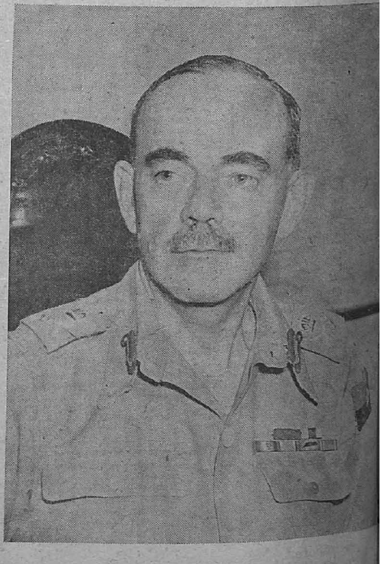
**MADDENED NATION**

It seems incredible that in the twentieth century, after centuries of civilized humanism, such a cry can be raised: and still more incredible that entire nations can be infected with such a pernicious philosophy. Yet, it has so happened, both in Germany and in Japan. Deep down in the heart of every son of Nippon is the firm belief that he is of divine descent, and therefore no one, not of the chosen, has any rights as against him. The rulers of Japan, during the last three-quarters of a century, have so 'arranged' the 'education' of the people that, bar material prosperity and military strength, there is little to choose between the modern Japanese and the nomadic hordes that wandered about the steppes of Central Asia. By exploiting the fundamental Japanese instinct of racial superiority, by exploiting the 'divinity' of the Emperor, their rulers have maddened an entire nation: yet, this has not been for the good of the Japanese people *as a whole*. All power, political, military and economic, has been concentrated in the hands of a few: the Army and the Navy control the administration, and the capitalists control both; thus the country is ruled by a small group of industrialists greedy for dividends, and a small group of Chauvinistic war-lords greedy for conquest. These small groups are of the 'chosen': they are of the 'Yamato' race; the world exists for them. Even in their own country, the vast masses of the people are outside the pale: the patient farmers, tillers of the soil, the fishermen that daily brave the perils of the sea to earn a scanty livelihood, the industrial workers that sweat in factories to give Japan her international trade and her armaments, the educated classes that earn a most precarious living in the "learned" professions or in the Civil services,—all these are just the 'means' to the greatness of Japan, the real meaning of which is the greatness of the capitalist-cum-military coterie.

**OUT FOR EXPLOITATION**

This is the real menace of Japan: they are out for exploitation. Having remorselessly exploited their own countrymen, they have now turned to other peoples: 'Japan must expand' that is their ambition: and in this expansion they have violated all known laws of man and of God; Japanese methods of exploitation are crude and brutal: their sense of racial superiority makes them deny even elementary human consideration to those different from their own 'race.' Neither the property, nor the person, nor the honour of womenfolk in conquered or occupied countries is safe. The Japanese look upon everything in conquered lands as the rightful prize of the conquerors, and since every soldier of theirs is a 'conqueror', he can work his will upon the conquered. Forcible entry into private houses, loot of property, carrying away of women—these are just ordinary incidents of the day. And there is a method and purpose in their brutality. They seek to demoralize the native population of conquered or occupied countries by all means in their power: by reducing them to economic slavery; by drugging them into insensibility with opium or heroin readily obtained: by destroying their culture and civilization: the full horrors of Japanese Fascism, both in Japan itself and in conquered or *occupied countries* will be told in another pamphlet.

(*A pamphlet issued by the Bihar N.W.F.*)



*NEW M.G.O. IN INDIA.—Lieut.-Gen. K. M. Loch, C.B., M.C., has been appointed Master-General of the Ordnance in India in succession to Lieut.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird, K.C.I.E., C.B., D.S.O.*

# EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN SOVIET RUSSIA

THE Academy of Sciences was founded by Peter I in 1724. One of the first Russian members of the Academy and the father of Russian science was Mikhail Lomonosov, son of a peasant of the Far North.

It was not long before the Russian Academy assumed a prominent place in Europe, particularly for its work in mathematics, physics, chemistry and geography. Besides Lomonosov, the Academy could pride itself on such internationally-known scientists as the mathematicians P. Chebyshev, A. Lyapunov and V. Steklov, the physicists V. Petrov (who discovered the phenomenon of the electric arc several years before Davy) and B. Golitsyn (one of the founders of Seismology), the chemists A. Butlerov and N. Zinin, and the physiologist Ivan Pavlov.

Because of its fundamentally reactionary policy, however, the doors of the Academy were closed to a number of outstanding scientists, the chemist D. Mendeleyev, the physiologist I. Sechenov, the botanist K. Timiryazev, and others. Another gifted scientist not a member was the mathematician N. Lobachevsky. Mixim Gorky, the famous Russian writer, was not approved as an honorary member by the Tsarist Government. For a long time the Academy remained a closed corporation of scientists, as it were.

### RADICAL CHANGE

The situation changed radically after the establishment of Soviet power. The basis of its activity was laid in 1918 in a broad plan of scientific and technological work, the author of which was the head of Soviet Government, V. I. Lenin.

In Soviet times outstanding engineers who have directly participated in large industrial construction jobs have become members of the Academy—I. Bardin, B. Vedeneyev, G. Graftio and others. In 1929, 42 new academicians were elected, among them S. Chaplygin, famous for his research in aerodynamics, A. Bach, the biochemist, and N. Zelinsky, the chemist, who invented the Russian gas mask. In 1939, 59 members and 102 corresponding members were elected, and for the first time in its history a woman became a member—L. Stern, famous for her work in physiology.

During the Great Patriotic War, the Academy has grown by another 36 members and 58 corresponding members, as well as honorary members, from among British and American scientists.

The number of distinguished scientists in the U.S.S.R. has been growing year by year. A comparison indicates the scope scientific activity has assumed: as of October 1, 1943, the Academy has 150 members, over 200 corresponding members and more than 3,000 professors and scientific workers, whereas in 1917 the old, pre-Revolutionary Academy numbered 45 academicians and 212 scientific workers.

### BASIC WORK

The basic work of the Academy is conducted at its various institutes, headed by prominent men in the respective fields. It has more than 70 large research institutes and an extensive chain of independent laboratories, stations, observatories, museums, scientific archives, libraries and other organizations, among them various scientific societies and commissions.

President of the Academy is V. L. Komarov, a botanist of world renown and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

As many as 1,000 post-graduates are studying at the Academy at state expense, preparing for research work. The old Academy from 1800 to 1917 did not bother training young scientists.

Side by side with the Academy and its branches in the Armenian, Azerbaijan, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek republics, there are independent academies in the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, and Georgian republics.

In pursuance of a Government decision, the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. was transferred in 1934 from Leningrad to Moscow, the capital of the U.S.S.R. Since then it has become the centre not only of a theoretical research but of the applied sciences, actively helping the Government in developing productive forces, in cultural and economic up building and in strengthening the country's defence.

In war time the Academy has helped plants in the Urals to go over to local manganese and employ coke substitutes; to develop a method for smelting ferrochrome steel in blast furnaces and refine it in converters. It has drawn up fuel charts for iron and steel plants, surveyed new rich mineral deposits in Kazakhstan and other republics. Besides, the Academy raised the productivity of coke and chemical plants, perfected industrial gas generators and solved the problem of increasing oil extraction and obtaining liquid from solid fuel.

Academician P. Kapitza's work in the field of low temperatures has earned him world fame. An investigation. "On Developing the Economy of the Urals in war time," carried out under the direction of the President of the Academy, won him a Stalin Prize in 1942. In 1941 and 1942 more than 70 members and corresponding members and a number of scientific workers of the Academy were awarded Stalin prizes. The Government has decorated many scientists in recognition of their services and achievements in solving problems of vital economic defence significance for the Soviet Union.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Public Education in Tsarist Russia was at an extremely low level of development, the overwhelming majority of the people being illiterate. As regards higher education the situation was still worse. In 1914 there were altogether 91 higher educational institutions, with a total student body of 112,000, most of these the children of the "elite," upper classes of society. In the peripheral regions inhabited by non-Russian nationalities, there were almost no higher educational institutions. Such a city as Tbilisi had only one higher school, while there was not a single one on the territory of the present Union Republics Byelorussia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and others.

From the very first days of its existence Soviet power opened wide the doors of higher and special educational establishments to the working people. Higher education became accessible to young men and women of all the nationalities of the country. At the present time there are 800 higher educational establishments in the U.S.S.R. with a total student body of 650,000. More than 100,000 young people graduate from the higher schools every years.

Soviet higher educational institutions prepare specialists and are also a centre for the dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge and the latest achievements of science.

Furthermore, in order to bring the masses closer to science, many of these schools have opened "Sunday Universities," which give cycles of lectures on various problems of science and technique, literature and art.

Stalin's words "We want all our workers and peasants to be cultured and educated, and we shall achieve this in time" provided a big programme of work for a number of years for the entire system of public education in the U.S.S.R. Millions of workers, collective farmers, and office employees study in the higher schools, technicums, and in special courses, constantly raising their cultural level, becoming thoroughly trained specialists, active builders of the Soviet State, of its culture, economy, administration. As a result of this tremendous amount of cultural work a large, new, Soviet intelligentsia has appeared and grown, which serves the peoples of the U.S.S.R. faithfully and truly. The rise of this new, people's socialist intelligentsia is one of the most important results of the cultural revolution in the U.S.S.R.

### ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS

The Soviet Government does everything to enable the students to complete their course of study successfully. It has placed many comfortable dormitories and entire students' quarters at the disposal of the students, containing their own dining rooms, club-rooms, etc., necessary to satisfy their everyday needs. Scores of thousands of students who come from the provinces to the city, live in these dormitories and students' quarters. Students are assured state stipends.

In addition to higher educational establishments the Soviet Union has a large number of research institutes in which professors, associate-professors and instructors prepare post-graduates

for independent scientific activity in various branches of the public economy and cultural life.

During the Great Patriotic War against Hitlerite Germany, the instruction and preparation of educated cadres has been continuing successfully. Soviet students have been fulfilling their duty to their country with honour, helping the Red Army in every way possible to accomplish its great mission of liberation—the destruction of the vicious Hitler gangs, their expulsion from Soviet soil.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

One of the most remarkable and outstanding results of the Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917 in Russia was the genuine cultural revolution throughout the country. The primary and fundamental expression of this revolution or rebirth of culture, was the organization of public education.

In a historically brief period, the U.S.S.R. effected universal, free education of children of both sexes in the languages of the nationalities in 1928–32, four years of elementary school; in 1933–37, junior middle school (seven years), and in 1938–42 it had been planned to establish free, universal education extending over elementary and secondary school in the cities, and elementary and junior middle school in the rural national districts. In 1938–39 there were 33,400,000 students in the elementary and secondary schools, as against a total of 8,000,000 in 1913. Of the 23,000 schools built in the U.S.S.R. from 1933 to 1940, about 18,000 were constructed in the rural districts. Altogether there were 172,000 schools in 1938–39, against 105,000 in 1915.

Those peoples which did not have any written languages formerly, now have them. This has made it possible to give an education to all children of formerly backward peoples. In this connexion, the proportion of students as compared with the total population of the U.S.S.R. has changed considerably. In 1914, for every 1,000 of the population there were 60 pupils in elementary and secondary schools; in 1938–39 this number was 185, or more than three times as many.

## FUNDAMENTALS OF INDUSTRY

Besides receiving a general education, Soviet students learn the fundamentals of large-scale industry and also a socially useful trade on the principle of polytechnical education.

* * *

In Tsarist Russia, the secondary school, or "gymnasium," as it was formerly called, was inaccessible to the masses; there were insufficient schools, tuition fees were high, class discrimination existed, and so forth. This has all been changed. The Soviet Government established an enormous network of secondary schools; in 1939 there were about 16,000 such schools with a total student body of 11,000,000.

Tuition is free of charge in the elementary and middle schools, which are open to all children irrespective of nationality, social origin or property status of their parents.

The upbringing of the child is in the hands of its family and the school jointly. The parents have their school committees which are in close contact with the teachers and the teachers often visit students at home.

Besides these schools, there are trade and factory schools; which train boys and girls to be skilled workers as well as give them a general education. During their course of study the students are maintained completely at the expense of the State, receiving clothing, footwear, food, and everything else required. In less than three years, from December 1940 to October 1943, these schools graduated about 1,550,000 young skilled workers.

## SUVOROV SCHOOLS

In 1943 a new type of school was organized in the Soviet Union, the Survorov srhools, which are new establishments of the typt of the cadet military school. These are open to boys who have lost their parents during the Great Patriotic War.

There is a special network of schools and courses of study for adults who have not received an elementary or middle school education. In 1939 there were 10,000 such institutions with an attendance of more than 750,000. In Tsarist Russia there were no adult schools except for some isolated "free universities."

■ ■ ■

During the Great Patriotic War the Soviet Government has not lessened the attention it pays to public education. It has passed special decrees improving the material conditions of teachers, increasing their salaries, etc.

Libraries occupy an important place in the system of public education. In 1939 there were 86,000 libraries, as compared with 12,500 in 1913. A similar picture holds true for clubs; there are 111,000, of which 39,000 are cottage reading rooms in rural districts. As for historical, art, natural science and regional museums, there were about 800 in 1939.

In 1940 the Soviet Government allocated 23,000 million rubbles for public education. In 1911 the total expenditure for all the schools of Tsarist Russia was 91 million rubbles.

The total number of students, children and adults in all the schools of Soviet Union in 1939 was 47,400,000. This figure is a striking confirmation of the genuine cultural revolution effected in the country as a result of the tremendous creative efforts of the Soviet people.

# SOVIET LITERATURE

Soviet literature arose and developed by the peoples of Russia after the Revolution of 1917. Essentially, Soviet literature is a new phenomenon, different from former Russian literature as well as from that of other countries. It derived new content from the national struggle for Socialism, and its pages show readers the heroes of this struggle with their emotions and world outlook.

The first writer to express this advance of the revolutionary spirit and the transforming energy of the Russian people in the beginning of our century, was Maxim Gorky (1868–1935).

Gorky is a living link between classic Russian literature of the past and the new literature which has sprung up in Russia during the Soviet epoch.

In his numerous novels Gorky gives the reader a broad colourful picture of the real life of the lower social strata, and of the merchants and intelligentsia in old Tsarist Russia. In remarkable novel "Mother," Gorky shows how progressive public activity leads to the spiritual ennoblement of a person. On the other hand, in his novel "The Life of Klim Samgin," the author paints the portrait of a man who becomes morally degenerate because of his hypocritical attitude toward the progressive democratic movement.

## CREATIVE IDEAS

Gorky's living creative ideas developed further and were embodied in Soviet literature which reflected in its many aspects the Civil War (1918–20) and the entire period of gigantic industrial construction in which millions of working people from city and village took part. All these events, which developed at a tremendous pace during the past 25 years, have served as the subject for numerous works by Soviet writers. These materials and ideas have inspired an outstanding generation of writers—V. Mayakovsky, A. Tolstoy, M. Sholokhov, A. Fadeyev, M. Zoshchenko, V. Ivanov, L. Leonov, N. Ostrovsky, L. Sobolev, I. Ehrenbourg, N. Pogodin and many others.

Vladimir Mayakovsky (1893–1930) created a new type of lyric, imbued with the emotions of the participant in the day-by-day fight for Socialism.

Besides Mayakovsky, Soviet poetry can boast of a number of other gifted personalities, among whom special mention should be made of E. Bagritsky (died 1934), author of a remarkable poem on the epoch of the Civil War, "The Lay of Opanas," S. Yesenin, that gentle bard of Russian nature and the old vanishing Russian village; B. Pasternak, delicate lyricist; I. Selvinsky, powerful master of epic poetry and poetic drama; the courageous writer N. Tikhonov, author of the poem "Kirov Is With Us," N. Aseyev, Mayakovsky's friend and author of a poem about him, "Mayakovsky Begins."

Alexei Tolstoy (born 1883) is the most richly-endowed and most Russian in spirit of modern Soviet writers. His two volume novel, "Peter I," gives a picture of Russia at the end of the 17th Century. In it he brilliantly moulds the figure of Peter, that gifted reformer who occupied the throne of Russia. In

his three-volume novel, "Pilgrimage Through Torment," Tolstoy give a panorama of Russian life during the years of Civil War and portrays to fusion of the intelligentsia with the people.

### HISTORICAL NOVEL

The historical novel in particular developed quickly and won a distinguished place in Soviet literature. One of the most outstanding masters of this genre is S. Sergeyev Tsensky (born 1876), author of a three-volume novel about the defence of Sevastopol in 1854–55 "The Ordeal of Sevastopol," and of "The Brusilov Breach."

Mikhail Sholokhov (born 1905) is the most outstanding and highly talented representative of the younger generation of Soviet writers. In his four-volume novel, "And Quiet Flows the Don," his manner of depicting people and epic narrative reminds one of the great Leo Tolstoy. He gives a picturesque, human psychological study of Cossack life at the turning point of its history, during the years 1915–20.

Russian literature naturally occupies a central place in modern Soviet literature. During the years of Soviet power more than 40 nationalities have developed a literature in their national languages. Much of this in type, genre and make-up comes close to modern Russian literature. This refers to the literature of the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijan, Uzbek and Kazakh peoples as well as that of the Soviet Baltic republics.

The literature of the other peoples is developing at rapid pace corresponding to the growth and development of the people as a whole, for there are many nationalities which acquired their own national written language and grammar under Soviet power. Such, for example, are the people of the Far North and the namodic peoples of Central Asia. The development of oral forms of folk literature was also stimulated after the Revolution. Some national bards, as the famous 95-year-old Kazakh "akyn," Jambul, have won renown throughout the country.

Soviet literature, profoundly democratic, anti-fascist in spirit, was ready when the Patriotic War against the Germans began. From the very first days it was at the service of the Soviet people in the heroic struggle for independence and freedom, at the service of the native land, lauding the unexampled heroism, daring and bravery of Soviet fighters. It has inspired millions with these qualities.

### WRITERS' UNION

Of the 3,000 members of the Writers' Union, about 900 went to the front, joining the Red Army ranks as officers, rank-and-file men, workers of front-line newspapers and war correspondents. No small number of writers died the death of heroes on the field of battle. Among them is Eugene Petrov, one of the most gifted Soviet satirists, who died at his post as war correspondent.

Since the war began the literary life of the country has become more intense, wider, and has been reflected on the pages of the daily newspapers.

The play "Russian People," by the young lyrical poet, K. Simonov; A. Korneichuk's drama "Front;" Vasili Grossman's outstanding novel "The People Immortal" and his articles on the Battle of Stalingrad; Wanda Wasilewska's "Rainbow;" A. Tolstoy's passionate articles, and I. Ehrenbourg's caustic pamphlets—all of these have appeared on the pages of the biggest central newspapers, all have become the possession of the people, their own thoughts and feelings.

The oneness of literature with people, in their ideas, language, and vital interests—this has always formed the basis for the development of Soviet literature. And therein lies its future.

## PUSHKIN

Alexander Pushkin was only 37 years old when he died. His entire literary activities were concentrated in the short space of something over two decades. Yet in this period he accomplished the enormous historical task of creating a great new Russian literature.

The overwhelming majority of writers usually confine themselves to one or another literary genre. In Russian literature there are great poets, there are great prose writers, there are great dramaturgists. But Pushkin—the author of "Eugene Onegin," "The Bronze Horseman," "The Queen of Spades," "The Captain's Daughter," "Boris Godunov," "Little Tragedies"—struck out simultaneously and with notable success along all literary paths, and justly earned the title of the father of modern Russian poetry, and prose, and drama.

Pushkin, in fine, created and perfected the national language, the instrument of all subsequent Russian literature. His essentially realistic writings include brilliant examples of nearly all literary styles. With each new major work, he created not only another literary gem, but wrote a new chapter, sometimes, a whole new volume, in the history of Russian literature.

In the poem "Ruslan and Ludmila," the first-born of Pushkin's illustrious literary line, he produced a brilliant example of a work based on a theme from folklore.

The poems "The Prisoner of the Caucasus," "The Fountain of Bakhchisaral" and "The Gypsies" are examples of Russian romanticism at its finest.

On the other hand, in his masterpiece "Eugene Onegin," a 'novel in verse,' Pushkin established his position as a great realistic poet, father of artistic realism, the initiator of the basic trend in Russian literature. Nearly all the works of the greatest Russian realists—from Lermontov's "A Hero of Our Time" through the novels of Turgenev and Goncharov to the monumental creations of Leo Tolstoy—have their direct forerunner in Pushkin's 'novel in verse.' It is precisely with "Eugene Onegin" that Russian literature became an artistic and poetic "Mirror" of whole historical epochs.

Pushkin's tragedy "Boris Godunov," the heroic poem "Poltave," the narrative in verse "The Bronze Horseman," the novels "The Moor of Peter the Great" and "The Captain's Daughter" are on themes from Russian history. As one Russian critic rightly pointed out, without Pushkin's "The Captain's Daughter" Tolstoy's "War and Peace" could not have been written.

The "Tales of Belkin," a collection of short stories written by Pushkin in 1830, were the first examples of Russian artistic prose. Among the "Tales of Belkin," a particularly important role in the further development of Russian literature was played by "Master of the Post-House." Pushkin's master of the post-house was a direct forerunner of the hero of Gogol's "Greatcoat" and of all those "Poor people," "humiliated and outraged," who were soon to fill the pages of the short stories and novels of the 40's of the last century.

The folk satire "The History of the Village of Goryuknino," written by Pushkin in the same year, suggested to Saltykov-Shchedrin outstanding Russian political satirist, the form for his celebrated "The History of a Certain Town," Pushkin's "Little Tragedies" anticipate the penetrating psychological analysis of Dostoyevsky's novels.

"In Pushkin reside all the seeds and embryos from which afterward developed all the types and forms of art of all our artists," rightly remarks Goncharov, one of the great Russian novelists. Maxim Gorky calls Pushkin unhesitatingly "the beginning of all beginnings" of Russian literature.

In his works Pushkin refuses to intrude the likes and dislikes, the partialities and designs of the author upon the reality he portrays: he gives an artistic generalization of the laws governing development of reality itself, regardless of whether they are in line with his personal desires. But the impartiality of the poet and artist in Pushkin never degenerates to apathy or lack of passion. Pushkin's objectivity is combined with a profound human understanding of what he is portraying, and a prepossession in favour of all that is lofty, beautiful, noble.

In "The Monument," a poetical testament to posterity in which Pushkin summarizes all his creative activity, he writes presciently:

> And long the people will with love
> remember me,
> For that my poet's lyre kind senti-
> ments compelled,
> For that in my harsh age I lauded
> liberty
> And mercy for the fallen have up-
> held

These words contain the programme of that humanism, that courageous and lofty compassion with which all Pushkin's works are imbued. Like a cardinal behest, Pushkin's humanism was followed by all subsequent Russian writers, forming one of the most precious features, one of the chief qualities in the great works contributed by Russia to the literary treasures of mankind.

# MAXIM GORKY

Maxim Gorky, the "Father of Soviet Literature," stands out as a great writer and political figure of our times.

Born in 1868, the son of a handicraftsman, Gorky was left an orphan at an early age and went to work when he was 9. During childhood and youth he lived on the Volga River, which he later so vividly described in his trilogy "Childhood," "Into the World," and "My Universities." In 1884 Gorky went to Kazan and worked there as a stevedore, gardener, watchman and baker. Here the future great writer met the progressive young people of his time. He took an active part in illegal workmen's groups, his revolutionary activities leading to his arrest. After being released he was kept under police surveillance.

In 1891–92 Gorky went on a tramp through Russia, going from Nizhni-Novgorod to the Black Sea. In the latter year he published his first story, "Maker Chudra," the forerunner of a great line of stories, plays and poetry. In his poems "The Song of the Stormy Petrel" and "The Song of the Falcon," in all his works, Gorky glorified the proud free spirit of man.

Gork y's popularity grew rapidly, particularly after his play "The Lower Depths" was staged by the Moscow Art Theatre in 1902.

That same year the Russian Academy of Sciences elected him an honorary member, but on the Tsar's order this election was annulled. For his protest against the shooting of workers on January 9, 1905, known as Bloody Sunday, the Tsarist Government imprisoned Gorky in the Peter and Paul Fortress, the "Russian Bastille." After his release, he went abroad in 1906 and for many years lived an exile in Italy.

## FIRST MEETING WITH LENIN

In 1907 Gorky participated in the work of the 5th Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party held in London, where he first met Lenin. This meeting developed into a lasting friendship.

Lenin highly appreciated Gorky's extraordinary talent and was especially warm in his praise of the writer's novel "Mother," a picture of the revolutionary struggle of 1905 imbued with deep conviction in the final triumph of social justice. The novel contains a remarkable portrayal of an old, downtrodden woman, a worker's wife who is drawn into the revolutionary struggle through her son and rises to heroic stature.

Gorky bitterly attacked the oppression and tyranny of Tsarist Russia in his works "Foma Gordeyev," "The Rise and Fall of the Artamonovs" (in English translation entitled "Decadence"), "Enemies," and others. He also powerfully lashed the blockheaded pettiness, vulgarity and treachery of philistines and whiners in "The Town of Okurov," "Philistines," the play "Suburbanites," etc.

His novel "The Life of Klim Samgin," the fruit of 10 years of labour, is an enormous literary canvas showing the Russian intellectuals of the turn of the century, and covers a period of 40 years.

In portraying Tsarist Russia Gorky did not hesitate to reveal the seamy side in all its ugly aspects. But at the same time he also showed that the people possess hidden wellsprings of great potential force, and retain honest conceptions about labour, beauty and truth.

In 1913 Gorky was back in Russia again, and remained until 1921. In that year Lenin insisted he must go abroad as he was suffering from an aggravated form of tuberculosis.

While abroad he worked unremittingly to unite the progressive people of western Europe for the struggle against reaction, against fascism. He maintained close ties with the Soviet Union and was an ardent champion of his country and its achievements. In 1928 Gorky returned to his native land, and at once plunged into intense and many sided work.

## RECOGNIZED LEADER

Gorky was the recognized leader of Soviet literature. He taught and inspired Soviet writers, and brought to the fore many new gifted people. Indefatigably he inculcated in his followers the will to fight, and an indestructible faith in the powers of the human intellect. His friendship with Stalin was of great assistance to Gorky in the building of socialist culture.

A brilliant master of the written work, Gorky continued the great traditions of Pushkin and Tolstoy, and also created his own, a Gorky period of Russian proletarian socialist literature. The life and struggle of the working people inspired him. The first great socialist writer, Maxim Gorky has gone down in the literature of all peoples as the author of classics. He blazed new paths in world literature, discovered new themes, new heroes, a new creative method of depicting them, and understood, as no one else did, the demands of the new reader.

In 1932, on the occasion of the celebration of his 40th anniversary of unceasing literary activity, he was decorated with the Order of Lenin, and his birthplace, the city of Nizhni-novgorod, was called Gorky.

In 1936, following his death, which was mourned by the whole country, Moscow's main street was renamed after him.

Gorky headed the international anti-fascist movement. Great humanist and champion of culture that he was, he sounded the call to struggle for equality, freedom and independence. He hated with a passionate hatred the fanatic "race theory" of the fascist maniacs, and aroused mankind to destroy the brown plague.

"If the enemy does not surrender, he must be destroyed."

Gorky summoned writers to strengthen the people's honesty, valour and heroism, and he was proud of the Red Army and his nation.

Gorky's works are popular in his own country and throughout the world, having been translated into almost every foreign language. In the U.S.S.R. he has an enormous reading public; from 1917 to 1942 his works were published in 65 languages of the Soviet Union in editions exceeding 41,000,000 copies.

# MAYAKOVSKY

Vladmir Mayakovsky is one of the outstanding Russian poets of our century. The significance of his work has been expressed in the following words of Stalin:

"Mayakovsky was and remains the best, most talented poet of our Soviet epoch."

The poet was born in the village of Bagdadi (now called Mayakovsky), in Georgia, 1893, the son of a forester. After his father's death his family moved to Moscow in 1906, and there he came into contact with revolutionary youth circles. From the age of 15 he took an active part in the revolutionary movement, was arrested and imprisoned.

Upon his release, the young Mayakovsky passionately devoted himself to the idea of founding a new, revolutionary art. In 1911 he entered the Moscow School of Painting, Architecture and Sculpture but soon occupied himself wholly with poetry.

Mayakovsky's first verses were published in 1913 in a volume called "A Slap in the Face of Convention." In 1915 he became acquainted with Maxim Gorky, who exerted a strong influence on the young poet. Even in those early years he wrote a number of remarkable poems "Cloud in Pants" (1915), "Flute-Backbone" (1916), "Man" (1917), in which he emphatically and indignantly protested against the reactionary forces which outraged and humiliated human personality.

## OCTOBER REVOLUTION

It was with great enthusiasm that Mayakovsky welcomed the October Revolution of 1917, which marked emancipation from age-old oppression. He became its most brilliant, ardent bard.

He rebelled keenly against cold and apathetic "academic" art, striving to bring poetry closer to life. He regarded the poet as a direct participant in the struggle for freedom and a beautiful future for his people. During the years of Civil War he directed all his energy as a poet and artist to creating propagandist and satirical posters which lashed the enemies of the Soviet land ("Rosta Windows"—1919-1921). This was followed by much intensive newspaper work, in which he reviewed political events of the day and also wrote a number of poems, unsurpassed *chef-d'oeuvres* for their caustic political commentary.

In contrast to aristocratic, reserved, chamber art, Mayakovsky forged his ideal of a genuinely democratic, popular art. He carried poetry out of the close confines of literary salons into the open air, into the streets and squares. He

appealed directly to the people, tirelessly travelling over the entire country, reciting his poems before mass audiences of workers and farmers.

A profound and fine lyricist, Mayakovsky expressed in his verse the wealth and diversity of emotions and experience of the new, freeman, the man born of the Revolution, who loathed baseness, vulgarity and narrow-mindedness, who hated all manifestations of oppression and violence, who fought for the cleanness of human relationships, and who was supremely loyal to his native land, to the ideals of the Socialist State. In poems which are among the finest examples of Soviet lyricism, he paints an ethically superb picture of a mighty, staunch lighter, a burning patroit ("To Comrade Nette," "Verses About a Soviet Passport," "To Sergei Yesenin," "Home," "At the Top of My Voice" and others).

A master of keen will and painfully stinging satire, he created a large gallery of pamphlet caricatures and grotesque figures, exposing the enemies of Soviet man in their diverse manifestations, from the bigoted bureaucrats and philistines to the international ravagers and fascist murderers preparing to attack the Soviet Land ("Mayakovsky Gallery," "The Bedbug," "The Bath-House," and others).

Among Mayakovsky's most striking works are his volumes of verse written after his trips to Western Europe and America "Paris" (1924–25), "Verses About America" (1925–26), "There and Back" (1928–29).

### GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

Mayakovsky's greatest poetic achievements are his large poems "150,000,000" (1920), "About This" (1923), "Vladimir Ilyich Lenin" (1924), "Khorosho" (Good) (1927), in which he reveals, with exceptional force the historical greatness of the October Revolution and its leader, Lenin, the spiritual beauty and strength of the Soviet man who defended his land and lofty ideals belonging to all mankind against numerous enemies.

The influence exerted by Mayakovsky on all modern, Soviet poetry is tremendous. A tireless innovator, he transformed poetic language, democratized it, introduced into it ordinary everyday, colloquial speech. He reformed poetic rhythm, using live oratorical and colloquial intonations, and skilfully developed new rhythms. In spite of the difficulty of translation, his verse has been put into 23 foreign languages.

The literary legacy left by Mayakovsky has been declared by the Soviet Government to be a state possession, and accordingly the Vladimir Mayakovsky State Museum has been made one of the signets of Moscow.

# THE SOVIET THEATRE

The Soviet people are justly proud of their theatres, which have won worldfame.

In Tsarist Russia, only those theatres occupied a place of prime importance which bore the name "Imperial Theatre" as the Mariinsky opera and Alexandrinsky drama theatres in St. Petersburg, and the Bolshoi opera and Maly drama theatres in Moscow. At the end of the last century these theatres, having companies that included the best of the country's stage forces, nevertheless experienced a grave crisis because of the lack of profundity and artistic value of their repertories and the existing bureaucratic system of administration.

The reforms effected by the Art Theatre's founders—those remarkable masters of stagecraft K. Stanislavsky and V. Nemirovich-Danchenko, who renounced the stereotype and the artificial—were exceptionally significant. But they could not bring the theatre closer to the people, lead it out of its impasse. The inaccessibility of the theatre to the general public and the limited number of theatres meant that they were attended by only a narrow circle of spectators.

### MASS CHARACTER

It was only after the establishment of Soviet power that the theatre took on a significant mass character. New theatres arose, among them the Theatre of the Moscow Soviet, the Theatre of the Revolution, the Red Army Theatre, the Kamerny Theatre, and the Vakhtagov Theatre in Moscow, the Gorky drama theatre in Leningrad and many others throughout the country. These have played a big role in the development of Soviet Theatrical Art.

The national theatres of the Soviet peoples, among them the Georgian Rustaveli theatre, the Ukrainian Ivan Franko theatre, the Uzbek theatre, the Jewish theatre and others, also developed rapidly. Moreover, peoples that previously had no theatre at all now founded their own national troupes, as the Tajik, with 23 new theatres; the Turkmen, 11; the Kirghiz, 21. All in all, there are 825 theatres in the Soviet Union as compared to the 153 that existed in 1914.

The finest pre-Revolutionary theatres—the Moscow Art, the Bolshoi opera, the Maly and several others—were given every opportunity for development after 1917. The Soviet theatre became a cultural force of exceptional importance. Its repertory was revised, and the classical works of Gogol, Griboyedov, Ostrovsky, Gorky, Chekhov, Shakespears, Schiller, Moliere, occupied a permanent place.

The Soviet people have produced their own forces of new gifted playwrights, producers and theatre directors.

Gorky's dramas have played a significant role in the development of the Soviet theatre. His writings, imbued with humanism and truth to life, have instilled and continue to instil in the spectator a love of country and respect for human dignity.

Developing under Gorky's influence, Soviet dramaturgy reflected socialist reality and the thoughts and feelings of the new Soviet man.

A foremost achievement of Soviet dramaturgy was the presentation of Lenin and Stalin on the stage. The best, most gifted Soviet actors—Shchukin, Shtraukh, Gelovani and others, have given brilliant, unforgettable portrayals of the leaders of the Soviet State. A number of impressive performances are based on historic themes, bringing to theatre-goers, for instance, the heroic deeds of Russia's outstanding military leaders such as Sovorov and Kutozov, and Nadezhda Durova, the girl officer and hero of the Patriotic War of 1812.

Besides the big theatres in Soviet cities, others have been established in the countryside, as well as amateur mass folk theatres. Collective farm theatres alone numbered 283 in 1941. Youngsters have their own special children's theatres, working under the guidance of experienced actors and teachers.

The Soviet Government has conferred upon the best producers and actors Stalin Prizes, Honorary Titles and Orders.

The Soviet actor is not dependent upon the caprices of private entrepreneurs; his interests are protected by the Government. He is never threatened by unemployment and the intrigues of rivals and competitors.

In the grim days of the Patriotic War of the Soviet people against Hitlerite Germany, the Soviet actors are selflessly devoting their art to the front. They are favourite guests of the Red Army men, often performing at the front lines right under enemy fire.

Plays which inspire the people in their struggle against German fascism ("Russian People" by K. Simonov, "Front" by A. Korneichuk, "Invasion" by L. Leonov) are running with great success at the biggest theatres as well as at theatres of amateur groups.

The Soviet theatre, generally recognized as occupying first place in the world, is a potent weapon in the struggle against the stranglers of culture—the Hitlerite invaders.

# MUSIC OF THE SOVIET PEOPLES

Music occupies a place of honour in the general cultural programme of the U.S.S.R. Musicians are encouraged by the Government in every way possible. Large sums are allocated for staging new operas and musical-dramatic productions, for training and developing musical cadres, etc.

The most gifted composers and performers have been given the titles Artist of Merit and People's Artist, and many have been honoured with Stalin Prizes.

The Soviet people profoundly love their composers and musicians. Concerts are given every day throughout

the land in concert halls, workers' clubs and over the radio, the programme including the works of Dmitri Shostakovich, author of the remarkable 5th and 7th symphonies, the music of which reflects the loftiness of the Soviet people's spirit and their love for freedom; Serge Prokofieff, with his expressive feeling and humour, his lyricism and tragedy, his joy and laughter and tears; Nikolai Mayaskovsky, who is rightly regarded as the founder of Soviet symphonic music; Vissarion Shebalin, whose string quarters on Slavic themes have won wide popularity.

Dzerzhinsky's new operas "And Quiet Flows the Don" and "Soil Upturned" and T. Khrennikov's "Into the storm" are known all over the Soviet Union. The new Uzbek operas "Gulsara" and "Leila i Medjnun" by R. Gliere, the Georgian opera "Daisi" by Z. Paliashvili, the symphonic poem "The Hermit" by Z. Kiladze, the "Poem about Stalin" by the Soviet Armenian Composer A. Khachaturyan, and many other works, for which the composers have drawn upon the musical culture of the national republics, develop the best traditions of classical music and at the same time are genuine innovations.

The Soviet winners of international music contests—as the pianists Lev Oborin, Yakov Fliere and Emil Gilels, the violinists David Oistrakh and Marina Kozolupova, and the distinguished pianist Vladimir Sotronitsky, Stalin Prize-winner—have gained world renown. The best of the performers are the pupils of outstanding music teachers. Professors K. Igumnov (piano) and K. Mostras of Moscow and P. Stolyarsky (violin) of Odessa, who have created their own schools of music. Many of the performers are graduates of special schools for musically gifted children, where from early childhood they received Government stipends and other help in developing their musical abilities.

Most of the peoples in the country before the Revolution had no national opera. To-day the Kazahk, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tajik, Kirghiz, Buryat-Mongolian and other peoples have their own national opera, representing a valuable contribution to musical culture.

Until 1917, folk bards and singers led a miserable existence, subjected to constant repression for their freedom-loving songs, imbued with the spirit of protest against the oppressors. To-day, a quarter of a century later, they are popular creators of new epic genres, of inspired songs and poems about the heroism of the Red Army, about Lenin and Stalin, about socialist life. Gifted performers on national instruments are popular and enjoy esteem both in their own republics and throughout the U.S.S.R.

### ART

The arts in the Soviet Union have flourished during the war against Hitlerite Germany, a foremost place being occupied by music. Numerous musical compositions reflecting the patriotism of the Soviet people and their heroic struggle against fascism have appeared. Outstanding among these are Shostakovich's 7th Symphony, a work that has received world recognition, Prokofieff's suite "The Year 1941," and the heroic ballads of Muradeli and Mosolov. In the field of folk songs special mention should be made of A. Alexandrov, composer of the "Hymn to the Bolshevik Party," V. Zakharov, I. Dunayevsky and Dmitri and Daniel Pokrass, who have been especially successful with their popular songs that have taken a firm hold on the popular imagination as a part of everyday Soviet life in wartime.

## HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MONUMENTS

The first Russian Museum—"a chamber of curiosities"—was founded by Peter I in St. Petersburg, early in the 18th century. That same century the first art museums were founded in Russia, in the city and suburban places of St. Petersburg and Peterhof. The famous Hermitage was opened in St. Petersburg, at first in the form of a court and collection of the empress Catherine II.

Other museums were founded in the following century:—the historical, Rumyantsev, Polytechnical and State Russian museums, the Tretyakov Art Gallery, and the first public museums of the Academy of Science and Universities. Many of the collections preserved in the museums of Russia enjoyed not only European but world fame, while some of the provincial museums had large valuable collections. All in all, there were 180 museums in the country. But the bulk of workers had little access to them before the Revolution. Cultural treasures of great value belonged to private individuals and collector of antiques.

* * *

Museum assumed a new position after the Great October Socialist Revolution. The exceedingly valuable monuments created by the Russian people in the long centuries of their history, were taken over by the State and now belong to the Soviet people. They are carefully preserved in numerous national and local museums. Tremendous sums are released by the Soviet Government annually for the maintenance, preservation and restoration at special art studios of these treasures of antiquity, as well as for the collection of new historical and art material and for the development of research work. In addition to their regular activities, Soviet museums carry on political and educational work on a large scale.

### A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

A central museum administration was formed after the Revolution—a special department under the Peoples Commissariat of Education, and funds at its disposal were increased considerably.

Museums of the Soviet Union had about 17,000,000 exhibits, as on January 1, 1940, and the 180 Museums of Tsarist Russia had grown to 836. Numerous museums were opened in the Union Republics. For instance, the Azerbaijan S.S.R., which did not have a single museum before the Revolution had 19 in 1930, the Georgian S.S.R. had three museums in 1914, and 32 in 1939, the Armenian S.S.R. had none before 1917, and in 1939 there were nine, etc.

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Many new museums of outstanding significance have been founded in the U.S.S.R., the Lenin Museum in Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev, the Red Army and Gorky Museums, the Museum of the Revolution in Moscow and Leningrad, the Museum of Oriental Cultures, and the Museum of Modern Western Art in Moscow. The finest works of human art have been collected by the Soviet State in these museums, and are the property of the millions of workers and farmers.

More than 37 million people visited the museums in 1939 alone. The Lenin Museum is especially popular. It contains most valuable exhibits and the life and activity of Lenin and the great friendship between Lenin and Stalin.

Of great repute is the State Hermitage Museum of Leningrad, which contains outstanding valuable specimens of Western European painting, priceless collections of porcelain and material on the art and culture of primitive society. The Hermitage is rich in collections of Italian painting of the 16th and 17th centuries, Spanish, Dutch and Flemish painting of the 17th Century and French painting of the 17th and 18th centuries. Spanish painting is more fully represented at the Hermitage than anywhere else, except at the Del Prado Museum in Madrid, and its collection of the works of the French school is second only to that at the Louvre in Paris. Here too are those rarest treasures—painting by Rubens, Van Dyck, Rembrandt. The museum has 250,000 etchings, including the famous Rembrandt collection.

The Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow is also universally known, containing some of the finest specimens of Russian art from antiquity down to our day.

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Now, during the Great Patriotic War, the museums of the U.S.S.R. conduct their work on a reorganized basis, their fundamental task being to inspire the population to enhance the defence might of the country. They arrange lectures and reports at workers' clubs and palaces of culture, and send out travelling exhibitions concerning the heroic traditions of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. The museums have also undertaken important research on the natural productive forces of the country and the use of its supplementary raw material resources for defence. They are also doing considerable work in collecting material on the history of the Great Patriotic War.

On the territory temporarily occupied by them, the Hitlerite vandals have destroyed and plundered valuable historical and cultural centres of the past, as the Peterhof palaces, the ancient cathedrals in Novgorod and Istra, the Leo Tolstoy Country-house Museum at Yasnaya Polyana, the Chaikvsky Museum in Klin, Moscow Region, the Chekhov Museum in Taganrog, the Pushkin and Turgenev Museums and others.

*SOUTH INDIAN LADIES VISIT DELHI W.A.C. (Is).—Four Indian ladies, well known in South India for their wide interest in women's movements, have been visiting Delhi to obtain first-hand knowledge of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India). They saw the girls at work and at play and lived in one of their hostels.*

*The visitors photographed on the balcony of one of the hostels with Regional Commander E. M. Dennys, centre, and officers of the Corps, are* Left to right—*Mrs. Aranha, Mrs. Sreshta, Mrs. Shanta Bai and Miss Parvati from the Mangalore district.*

# WAR DIARY

## BRITAIN AND GERMANY

24TH MAY.—Mr. Churchill opened the debate on foreign affairs in the Commons to-day.

About 2,000 Allied planes attacked Berlin and other places.

25TH MAY.—The debate on foreign policy was continued in the Commons.

Hanover, Aachen and other places in Germany were bombed last night.

26TH MAY.—General Eisenhower returned to London after inspection of ground force units of the Allied Expeditionary force. He was received in audience by His Majesty the King.

Sir Samuel Hoare, British Ambassador to Spain, made a speech on Britain's role in post-war Europe.

27TH MAY.—American bombers raided Karbruke, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen Saarbrucken and Strasbourg in Germany.

28TH MAY.—Last night Berlin and Dussaldorf were heavily bombed.

Hitler saw yesterday, General Oshima, the Japanese Ambassador to Germany. Ribbentrop, the Geman Foreign Minister, was present.

German bombers raided a coast town in South England.

29TH MAY.—Ludwigshafen was bombed by the Allies last night. United States bombers attacked Leipzig, Tutow, Cottbus, Sorau, Mecklenburg and Magdeburg in Germany.

30TH MAY.—On the last two nights enemy aircraft raided the coastal districts of South and South-west England.

American boubers attacked Dessaw, Osthersleben and Halberstdat in Germany.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

26TH MAY.—President Roosevelt visited the Bethesda naval hospital.

The Secretary of the Interior and Fuel Administrator, Mr. Harold Jekes stated that Uninted States faced the greatest coal shortage in recent times.

The White House has announced that President Roosevelt has called an International Monetary Conference for July 1.

27TH MAY.—President Roosevelt signed into law legislation authorizing a special 60 million dollar appropriation for tools equipment and facilities to manufacture Rocket guns projectiles, etc.

28TH MAY.—Brigadier-General R. E. Nowland, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Transport Command, said that during April A.T.C. ferry pilots flew 29 million miles to deliver bombers to the European and Pacific zones.

30TH MAY.—Mr. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, conferred to-day with the British, Soviet and Chinese Ambassadors following his announcement that that the United States was now ready to join these three countries in the planning of a post-war organization to maintain peace.

The American Ambassador to Britain, Mr. John G. Winant, returned to England.

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## INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

24TH MAY.—South and south-west of Kohima Allied troops improved their positions. In the Bishenpur area Allies captured a village.

25TH MAY.—The Japs desperate attempts to capture Imphal have been foiled. The ring around Myitkyina town continues to close in slowly.

26TH MAY.—Allied forces continued their pressure north-west of Myitkyina. Allied patrols were active in the neighbourhood of Kohima. Heavy fighting continues in Bishenpur area.

27TH MAY.—Allied troops advanced 1½ miles towards Myitkyina. In the Imphal area patrols were active.

28TH MAY.—North of Bishenpur the enemy made repeated unsuccessful attempts to re-capture his lost positions.

29TH MAY.—Chinese-American forces penetrated into the south-end of Myitkyina. Chinese forces captured the village of Sharaw, north of Kamaing.

30TH MAY.—Chinese-American forces have cut the main road between Kamaing and Mogaung. In the Kohima area the Allies have progressed near the Naga village.

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## RUSSIA AND FINLAND

24TH MAY.—During air-combat 17 enemy planes were destroyed. Two German ships were sunk in the Gulf of Finland.

25TH MAY.—Soviet aircraft continued to attack enemy objectives.

26TH MAY.—Thirty enemy planes were shot down in air combat. Two large German transports were sunk in the Gulf of Riga.

28TH MAY.—The Germans are working desperately to throw up new defence zones on the eastern front and are mobilizing new forces to stiffen their existing positions which are being kept under an almost incessant Red Army Artillery and mortar fire.

29TH MAY.—Germans were beaten back near Luck. Thirty-three enemy planes were shot down in air combat.

## LAST MONTH . . .—

1ST MAY.—Empire Prime Ministers' Conference meets.

10TH MAY.—Russians capture Sevastapol.

12TH MAY.—New offensive in Italy: Attack on Gustav Line begins.

16TH MAY.—Empire Premiers' Conference concludes.

Battle of Kohima Ridge ends.

17TH MAY.—Empire Premiers issue joint statement.

18TH MAY.—Allies capture Myitkyina ærodrome in Burma and Cassino in Italy. Allies bomb Sourabaya.

20TH MAY.—Allies occupy Gaeta.

24TH MAY.—Mr. Churchill speaks on Foreign policy.

Allies occupy Terracina.

26TH MAY.—Hitler Line liquidated.

Allies capture Cisterna and Littoria.

29TH MAY.—Allied troops are within 16½ miles of Rome.

## ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

24TH MAY.—The Allies have occupied *Terracina*, Pico, Lenola and Monte Alto.

25TH MAY.—Patrols of the main Fifth Army have linked up with the forces in the Anzio beachhead. The Allied forces occupied Pontecorvo, La Villa and Aquino.

26TH MAY.—Hitler line has been liquidated. The Allies are now only 21 miles from Rome. Allied forces have captured *Cisterna*, *Littoria*, Roccasecca, Mount Cairo, Cori, San Giovanni, Valle-Corsa and Colle Grande.

27TH MAY.—The Allies have occupied *Sezze* and Monte Arrestino.

28TH MAY.—Allies captured *Ceprano*, *Artena*, Belmonte, Villa San Stefano and Norma.

29TH MAY.—Fifth Army troops are within 16½ miles from Rome. The towns of Sermoneta and Bassian are cleared of Germans.

30TH MAY.—Gigantic battles have developed along the whole 26 miles of Kesselring's last ditch defences before Rome. British troops occupied Arce, Eighth Army troops took Atina. Allied forces have entered the suburbs of Velletri.

## VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

24TH MAY.—Allied bombers attacked enemy objectives in Paris area and Vienna in Austria.

25TH MAY.—Allied planes attacked enemy positions in France and Belgium.

27TH MAY.—Metz in France was attacked by Allied bombers.

28TH MAY.—Nantes and Rennes in France and Bourg Leopold in Belgium were attacked by Allied bombers.

29TH MAY.—Allied planes bombed Angers and other places in France, Posen and Kreiseng in Poland, Wienel Neustdt in Austria and enemy positions in Belgium.

30TH MAY.—Allied bombers attacked Brussels in Belgium, Rheims and Troyes in France.

## THE FAR EAST

24TH MAY.—Truk, Wewak and other places were attacked by Allied aircraft.

Chinese troops have captured Sniping, Chumatien, Svping and Hsiunbshan in Honan province.

25TH MAY.—Fifteen more Japanese ships were sunk by American submarines in the Pacific, according to United States Navy Communiqué issued to-day.

26TH MAY.—United States aircraft bombed Ponape.

28TH MAY.—American troops have invaded Biak Island. Allied planes attacked Kusaie and Ponape Islands in the Carolines and Jap positions in the Marshalls.

28TH MAY.—The Japanese have launched an attack south of Yochow in South-eastern China.

29TH MAY.—United States bombers strafed Ponape and Pakin islands.

30TH MAY.—On Biak Island Allied troops have advanced six miles. Allied planes bombed Truk, Tobera, Rabaul, etc.

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*Travelling by Jeep, the Commander-in-Chief inspects tanks and crews in Jhansi*

*Trainees at the Central Command School at Jhansi demonstrate bayonet charges for the Commander-in-Chief.*

## FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

MADRAS—JUNE 3.—9-45 p.m. Fighting Forces.

" " 5.—9-00 p.m. 'Shadow of the Rising Sun.'

" " —9-45 p.m. 'Problems of New India: relay from Delhi.'

" " 8.—9-00 p.m. The Common Cause.

TRICHINOPOLY—JUNE 8—9-45 p.m. A declaration of Interdependencies: By Dr. R. N. Poduval.

MADRAS—JUNE 9.—9-00 p.m. 'Concept of freedom: collective freedom.' By Mr. R. Galletti, I.C.S.